

5. PUFFINUS OBSCURUS.

Procellaria obscura, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 559.

Puffinus obscurus, Finsch, Journ. Mus. Godeff. Heft xii. p. 40.

Hab. Manua, Samoan Islands (*T. Powell*).

Native name "Taio," = Taiko.

Mr. Powell says that these birds are found in the mountains of Manua in holes, as in the case of the Seu-ta-peau (i.e. *F. mæstissima*). The natives are very fond of them, and catch and consume great numbers, hunting them with dogs. He gives the dimensions of the specimen sent as follows:—Length 12·6 inches from the tip of the bill to the tip of the tail; bill 1·3; tail 3·3; middle and outer toe 1·8; inner toe 1·5; tarsus 1·6 (black on the outer side, bluish black on the inner); expanse from tip to tip of wings 2 feet 2 inches.

6. On the Use of the generic Name *Gouldia* in Zoology.
By W. H. DALL, Smithsonian Institution.

[Received January 7, 1879.]

Until within a few days I have never been able to point to the exact place where the late Prof. C. B. Adams described his genus *Gouldia*; and most foreign naturalists have supposed that its first appearance was in Jay's Catalogue of Shells of January 1850. According to Marschall's continuation of the 'Nomenclator Zoologicus,' a genus *Gouldia* (*Trochilidæ*) was proposed by "Ch. Bonaparte in Paris Acad. 1850," while another authority places the date of the description in 1849. On this account Mr. Guppy of Trinidad, W. I., proposed to substitute *Crassinella* for the molluscan *Gouldia* of C. B. Adams. I believe this name has somewhere been used by T. A. Conrad for some fossil allied to *Astarte*; but I have not been able to find the reference yet. It is, however, of no consequence, since, even had *Gouldia*, C. B. Ad., been untenable, there are several synonyms which are prior to *Crassinella*, Guppy, for that genus.

I am glad to be able to state definitely, at last, the place of description and date of *Gouldia*, C. B. Ad., and to establish it on a permanent footing, especially as the eminent naturalist from whom it was named was one to whom I owe a lasting debt of gratitude and affection for the almost paternal kindness with which he forwarded my first attempts at the study of natural history.

The story is most briefly told in a few paragraphs of synonymical references.

Genus GOULDIA, C. B. Adams.

Thetis, C. B. Ad. 1845, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. ii. p. 9 (Jan. 1845). Genus described, with two species, *T. cerina* and *T. parva*, from Jamaica. Not *Thetis*, J. Sowerby, Min. Conch. t. 513, 1826.

Gouldia, C. B. Ad. (in) Cat. of Genera and Species of recent

Shells in the Coll. of C. B. Adams, etc.¹ p. 29, note, Jan. 1847 (with the same two species as types); Pan. Sh. p. 275, 1852 (*G. pacifica*). Jay, Catal. of Shells, Jan. 1850; *ibid.* 1851. Not *Gouldia*, Bon. 1849-50 (*Aves*).

Eriphyla, Gabb, Pal. Calif. i. p. 180, 1864, type *E. umbonata*, Gabb; Stoliczka, Pal. Ind. iii. p. 156, 1871.

? *Eriphylopsis*, Meek, Pal. Upper Missouri, p. 125, 1876 (*E. gregaria*).

Crassinella, Guppy, Geol. Mag. Oct. 1874, p. 451, types *C. pacifica* and *C. martinicensis*, loc. cit. Not *Crassinella*, Conrad.

Mr. Gabb's *Eriphyla* was described under the idea that certain characters of the hinge were constant, which an examination of a series of a recent species of *Gouldia* (*G. macracea*, Linsley) has shown to be variable; and the same is probably true of Meek's *Eriphylopsis*, in which the specimen examined had the teeth reversed, as regards the right and left valves, as compared with the recent species. Such reversals occur in nearly all bivalves in individual cases, and, unless confirmed by the testimony of a large series, can hardly be held to have any systematic value.

It would seem, therefore, that the genus *Gouldia* of Bonaparte requires a new name; but, with Mr. Guppy's example as a warning, I shall leave that to the ornithologists to settle.

It may be remarked, however, that another genus of *Trochilidæ*, *Halia*, Mulsant and Verreaux (Mém. Cherbourg Soc. Sc. Nat. xii. 1866), is preoccupied by Risso (Eur. MÉR. 1826) for a valid genus of mollusks. It may also be questioned whether *Doryfera*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1847, has the right to exist simultaneously with *Doryphora* (Illiger, 1811, and Kütz. 1844). Moreover *Glaucus* (Bruch, Cab. Journ. 1853, *Lavidæ*) was used for a mollusk by Forster in 1800, and *Gnathodon* (Jardine, Ann. Nat. Hist. xvi. 1848, *Columbidæ*) was used by Gray for a mollusk in 1825.

Washington, Dec. 25, 1878.

7. A few Notes upon Four Species of Lemurs, specimens of which were brought alive to England in 1878². By GEORGE A. SHAW.

[Received January 9, 1879.]

(Plate IX.)

1. THE RING-TAILED LEMUR³.

As far as my experience of seven years goes, these Lemurs are found only in the south and south-western borders of the Bétsileo province of Madagascar. This province is about 150 miles in length, by 50 or 60 in width, and is situated on the central tableland, about 100 to 250 miles south of Antanànarivo, the capital of Madagascar.

¹ Middleburg, Vt., Justus Cobb, 1847, 8vo, pp. 32. The preface is dated January 1847.

² [See above, p. 2.—P. L. S.]

³ [*Lemur catta*, Linn.—P. L. S.]